

MITSUYA et al. -- 10/808,325
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IN THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract is amended as follows:

An overlapped-sheet detection apparatus can detect whether sheets are overlapped and shift the same, if overlapped, for further processing. The overlapped-sheet detection apparatus is provided with conveying belts ~~2a and 3a~~, forwarding and shifting rollers ~~4 and 5~~, motor [[6]] and discriminator [[80]]. Conveying belts ~~2a and 3a~~ hold and convey sheets [[1]] on a conveying path. Forwarding roller [[4]] is provided at the conveying path to forward sheets 1 in a conveying direction and forward sheets [[1]] in conveying direction [[A]]. Shifting roller [[5]] is provided opposite to forwarding roller [[4]] to shift sheets [[1]] back to a direction [[C]] which is the reverse of conveying direction [[A]] if [[said]] the sheets are overlapped. Motor [[6]] supplies shifting roller with driving torque to shift sheets [[1]] back to the direction [[C]] reversed to conveying direction [[A]]. An encoder is built in motor [[6]] to detect a rotation state of shifting roller [[5]]. Discriminator [[80]] judges from an output of the encoder whether sheets [[1]] are overlapped. When sheets are overlapped, forwarding roller [[4]] makes contact with upper sheet [[1a]] and sends the same in conveying direction [[A]] but shifting roller [[5]] shifts lower sheet [[1b]] in a direction reversed to conveying direction [[A]].